



## RTCA in Puerto Rico

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Puerto Rico offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Puerto Rico will work on a variety of projects including:

- **El Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail** – The project goal is to connect various cultural, historic, and natural resources with the City of San Juan via a seafront trail, including a 2-mile link of the Paseo de Morro National Recreational Trail. (Location: La Perla and Old San Juan, Puerto Rico)



View of the Puerto Rico coastline from the El Paseo del Morro National Recreation Trail

## Recent Success Story

**El Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail** – The National Park Service and the Friends of the Forts of Old San Juan have developed “The El Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail”. The trail uses a natural seafront and a two-mile trail to connect communities in San Juan with the city’s historical, cultural, and natural treasures. The trail links the neighborhoods of La Perla and Old San Juan with the sites of the city. The project brought diverse parties together to build trust and developed a shared vision for the trail.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Puerto Rico contact:

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